

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending April 27, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending April 27, 2003**. Producers made good strides in planting progress until rains fell across most of the state. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 49 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	97	96	93	91	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	85	76	77	74	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Planted	26	10	17	14	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	10	--	0	3	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	50	29	39	51	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	26	8	12	19	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Planted	44	20	35	42	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	23	5	12	21	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Planted	42	30	31	29	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	29	15	14	15	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Heading	68	38	76	80	1	6	30	58	5
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	35	31	26	18	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	79	61	79	62	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	4	23	60	12
Pasture						1	9	31	51	8

County Agent Comments

"Producers are getting behind on planting corn and early soybeans due to wet soils. Pastures and other forage crops are looking much better. Cattle producers are enjoying the high quality pastures that are available for grazing or hay."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

"Farms are still too wet for heavy equipment. Replanting of corn is necessary in some fields due to heavy rainfall. Cotton planting should start throughout the county this week."

— Anita L. Webb, Scott

"Dry weather has allowed for hay and haylage baling to get into full swing. Corn planting is complete and the corn is up and looking good."

— Richard Hay, Amite

"There was lots of heavy rain again last week with dime size hail scattered around the county."

— Carolyn Conger, Covington

"Commercial tomato fields have grown out of earlier frost damage and are now doing well."

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Hail damage is evident in corn and other field crops. This will result in some loss in the corn crop and set backs to the remainder of the crop. Corn planted in March received the most damage due to its growth stage and earlier damage from frost three weeks prior. Watermelons and other crops in the early stages of growth received minimal damage. Pasture grasses are greening and cattle producers are grazing animals. There is considerable hay left from the 2002 crop.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Growers that received more than an inch of rain last week should be able to get back in the field today. Most of our rice is planted and the rain really helped.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rains fell Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Most of the county got 1-1/2 to 2 inches. Field work will resume Monday or Tuesday and most producers are in good shape at this point.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Light rains early in the week with heavy rains at the end of the week limited field work in most of the county. Corn is starting to show signs of good recovery from the cool temperatures earlier. Side dress fertilizer is going on, and should improve the corn crop as well. Cotton planting is just getting started.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Rain delayed all field work last week. Corn planting is near completion. Producers are waiting for dry conditions to start planting soybeans.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We got 1-1/2 to 3 inches of rain Thursday depending on where you were in the county. Cotton planting had started just before the rain. Mainly refuges were being planted to give them an early start. Cotton planting will start with a bang this week if the rain does not catch us again.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“Showers again last week have slowed corn planting. Early planted corn is up and looking good. A favorable weather forecast for the next several days should allow for completion of corn planting.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Rains Wednesday halted planting most-likely through the rest of the week. Pastures look good in most areas.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“While some farms are still too wet to support heavy equipment, others are getting dry. Corn planted just prior to the heavy rain is struggling to emerge because of crusting in tilled fields. We expect widespread cotton planting to start this week throughout the area, but many producers plan to wait until after the first of May.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“Heavy rain on Thursday put a halt to farming activities. Most of the farming land was just about dry from the April 6th flood. On Thursday we received 3 to 5 inches of rain throughout the county. Corn planting is almost complete. There are about 200 acres that will need to be re-planted due to the heavy rain.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“The past few days of dry weather have allowed for spraying of pastures and cutting of some ryegrass hay.”

— Sonia Hancock, Rankin

“Heavy rains on Thursday and Friday stopped all field work, but the pastures greatly benefitted from the extra moisture. Corn and soybean planting will resume in perhaps a week. Rains have also delayed cool season hay harvest, but most of it is higher moisture baleage in plastic wraps. Pasture weeds are flourishing in un-treated fields.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Farming is in full swing. Gardens are being planted, with hay harvesting and pastures being fertilized.”

— Perry Brimfield, Lincoln

“We received about one inch of rain Friday that dampened the soil and will delay planting for a few days on some soils. Ryegrass hay is ready to cut in a few fields. Cattle condition is improving, with some in poor body condition due to the hard winter. Needle Cast is showing up in some pines and this has some producers and homeowners concerned, but new needles are replacing the ones that are falling off. Turkeys are not gobbling real good, but I know one that is sleeping with the fishes.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Corn for silage looks good. Pastures are improving and the cattle are in good shape.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Another large rainstorm (4 inches) hit most of the county. Streams, creeks, and the Chunky River were swollen beyond their banks in many locations. All field operations were halted. Corn is planted. Some beans and most of the cotton were planted in the past 7-10 days. Corn appears to be up to a good stand in all locations. Winter hay harvest has begun but is not in full swing yet.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from April 21, 2003 to April 27, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				64		1.70	+0.37	2	3.17				
Cleveland	78	48	63	64	-1	0.49	-0.70	3	2.52				
Tunica				64		1.53	+0.20	3	3.05				0.17
Extreme/Average	78	48	63	66	-3	1.24	-0.02	3	2.91				0.17
2. North-Central													
Batesville				63		1.98	+0.79	3	4.20				
Calhoun City				63		2.18	+0.85	3	7.00				
Independence				62		1.16	-0.00	3	3.09				
Oxford				62		0.99	-0.20	2	3.38				
Extreme/Average				64		1.58	+0.32	3	4.42				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	77	46	59	62	-3	3.53	+2.30	4	6.90				
Corinth City				64		2.60	+1.39 E	3	5.94				
Iuka				59		2.72	+1.52 E	3	5.46				
Ripley				62		2.76	+1.50 E	3	5.70				
Tupelo	82	45	63			3.45		4	6.84				
Extreme/Average	82	45	61	64	-3	3.01	+1.75	3	6.17				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				66		0.70	-0.64	2	2.83				
Rolling Fork	84	45	66	66	0	0.75	-0.51	1	3.96	88	60	77	
Stoneville	80	50	66	66	0	1.46	+0.20	2	3.78	82	62	71	0.22
Yazoo City	80	48	65	67	-2	0.80	-0.53	1	6.10				
Extreme/Average	84	45	66	67	-1	0.93	-0.26	2	4.17	88	60	74	0.22
5. Central													
Canton	80	46	64	66	-2	3.54	+2.17	2	8.69				
Carthage	80	45	63	64	-1	5.40	+4.07	2	9.95				
Lexington				64					4.43				
Eupora	76	42	59	63	-4	1.24	+0.01	3	4.42				
Extreme/Average	80	42	62	66	-4	3.39	+2.13	2	7.69				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	83	46	64	63	+1	1.82	+0.63	3	4.46				0.17
Houston	80	39	60	62	-2	2.17	+0.98	3	6.09				
Louisville	81	45	63	63	0	2.00	+0.68	1	7.00				
State University	82	44	62	64	-2	2.01	+0.75	2	5.67	79	62	69	0.17
Extreme/Average	83	39	62	65	-3	2.00	+0.70	2	5.81	79	62	69	0.17
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	81	50	68	66	+2	0.50	-0.83	1	1.55	87	63	75	
+ 22chez	82	47	67	67	0	0.61	-0.74	2	1.69				
Oakley		45		65		3.60	+2.29	2	6.69	85	67	75	
Vicksburg	79	50	66			0.74		1	9.10				
Extreme/Average	82	45	67	68	-1	1.36	+0.15	2	4.76	87	63	75	
8. South-Central													
Collins	85	50	67	66	+1	1.42	+0.15	3	2.98				
Columbia	85	52	68	67	+1	0.81	-0.52	3	3.94				
Tylertown	85	50	69	67	+2	0.78	-0.52	3	7.29				
Extreme/Average	85	50	68	68	0	1.00	-0.26	3	4.74				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	85	49	67			2.05		2	5.61				
Hattiesburg	83	52	67	67	0	1.59	+0.33	3	5.15				
Laurel	84	49	67	66	+1	0.43	-0.76	3	5.31				
Newton	82	45	64	64	0	4.30	+3.00	1	11.05	80	60	68	0.22
Extreme/Average	85	45	66	67	-1	2.09	+0.93	2	6.78	80	60	68	0.22
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	86	52	70	68	+2	0.06	-1.16	1	4.68				
Gulfport	85	54	71	69	+2	0.50	-0.69	1	4.67				
Pascagoula				67		0.13	-0.94	1	2.70				
Poplarville	87	53	70	67	+3	0.44	-0.81	2	5.12	86	65	74	0.28
Waveland	85	54	71	68	+3	1.11	-0.15	2	5.64				
Extreme/Average	87	52	71	70	+1	0.45	-0.61	1	4.56	86	65	74	0.28
State	87	39	65	66	-1	1.79	+0.57	2	5.40	88	60	72	0.21

DFN = Departure from Normal.